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EMERGENCY ISSUE

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Leading Article

FIRE PREVENTION AND THE ARCHITECT

The appearance of 'Fire Research 1958', being the report of the Fire Research Board with the report of the Director of Fire Research (Stationery Office, 5s), again draws attention to the experience available from the DSIR and the Chief Fire Officers in the design of factories. The restrictions in the Thermal Insulation (Industrial Buildings) Act 1957 and in the Regulations under the Act are designed to provide that where combustible materials are used for insulating roofs, they be used only in such form or construction as to delay the fire growth, giving time for the Fire Brigade to arrive. There is much information, as the Report points out, now available, on fire protection for factories, though the role played by such factors as fire load, dispersion of fuel, amount of window openings and the shape of buildings will not be fully understood until more use has been made of models in fire research. Roof venting, for instance, should have particular application to fires occurring in modern factories of large area, the Report adds, and this is a factor being studied.

Meanwhile, more use should be made of Chief Fire Officers and the knowledge they possess, particularly by architects, who (to quote from the annual report of the Chief Fire Officer of the Suffolk and Ipswich Fire Authority) 'seem to prefer to manage without the expert advice that is available'. This Officer adds: 'Some of the most rewarding work done by our Fire Prevention department is in conjunction with certain architects, but many of the others have been, and still are, designing buildings which will in the fullness of time add to the country's fire loss. The science of so designing a building that it will not easily burn down or injure its occupants scarcely figures at all in the training of an architect, and it is not always easy to persuade him that he has anything to learn from someone not sharing his own particular background.' Architects of course are expected to be experts in many fields of specialised design, but the very great annual losses caused by fires to buildings suggest that the architectural schools and the Board of Architectural Education should consider the matter with a view to including some of the basic principles of constructural fire-prevention in the curricula of students of architecture.

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RIBA EXAMINATION: In the RIBA Final Examination, held in London and other centres from June 14 to July 3, 112 passed the whole examination, one passed the whole examination subject to approval of Thesis and 49 passed Part 1 only. 172 were relegated.

RICS EXAMS: The RICS have announced the results of their first professional examinations held in the spring. Of the 1,739 candidates who sat 803 were successful. The following have been awarded prizes: Hyman Marks Prize, Peter Wynne, Wembley; Harfield Prize, B. H. Bonsall, Newcastle, Staffs.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

RECORD BRICK DELIVERIES: Brick deliveries in June, at 709½ m., were the highest on record, states the National Federation of Clay Industries. Production of bricks has risen from an average of 517 m. per month in the first quarter of the year to 627 m. in June. There has been no higher production in any single month since before the capital expenditure restrictions imposed in 1957. It is significant, too, states the Federation, that whereas total brick production rose by 12% between May and June, the output from the smaller and moderately sized local brickworks rose by over 15%.

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES ACT: The agreement between the British Constructional Steelwork Association and the Central Electricity Generating Board on the method by which contract price adjustments should be calculated has been removed from the register of the Registrar of Restrictive Trading Agreements under a direction of the Board of Trade dated July 30, given under Section 12 of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1956.

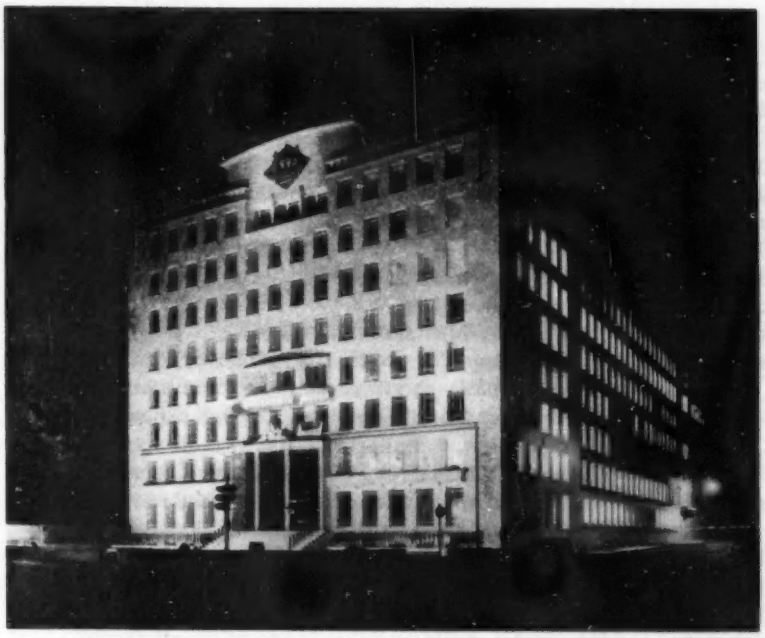
SUBURBAN OFFICE SCHEME: A 17-storey office block to cost more than £1 m., with a curved front 200ft. long facing the corner of London-road and Crown-lane, near Morden Underground station is proposed by the E. Alec Colman group of companies. The tower block would be flanked by two 2-storey wings 180ft. long with shops and a 2-storey departmental store in the front of the 1¼ acre triangular site. There would be a large car park beneath the building. The architect is Mr. A.Green, ARIBA, 23 Fitzroy-street, W.1. Merton and Morden Urban Council have accepted the design and the group's tender for the lease of the site, of which they are the owners. Application is being made for planning permission.

BLOOMSBURY SHOP AND OFFICE PROJECT: A £4 m. shop and office development is proposed on the site between Tottenham Court-road, Euston-road, Gower-street, Beaumont-place and a point opposite Gower-place, WC1. Piling has already begun for the foundations of a 16-storey office block on the southern portion of the site fronting Gower-street. An 11-storey block of offices, with shops and a branch of the Midland Bank on the ground floor will occupy the Tottenham Court-road/Euston-road/corner of the site, which will extend to Beaumont-place. Over the rest of the area, shops with first-floor showrooms, three floors of offices and basement garages are proposed. The developers are the St. Martin Le Grand Property Co. Ltd.; the architects are Stone, Toms & Partners; the quantity surveyor is D. G. Burrell, FRICA: and the work is to be carried out by the Laing Development Co. Ltd.

KENSINGTON PROJECT: A £5 m. scheme for redeveloping the north side of Kensington High-st.W, from Kensington Church-street to Palace-avenue is under consideration by the London County Council. The scheme includes a 23-storey tower block of offices facing St. Mary Abbot's church, flats, shops and 600-room hotel at the Kensington Gardens end of the site. It has been referred to Kensington BC for the council's observations. The developers are Mr. Felix Fenston's Eron Investments and the architects are R. Seifert & Partners. Beyond the tower block would be a two-storey frontage of shops extending almost to Kensington Palace-gardens on which, and extending back along the line of Old Court-place, there would be an L-shaped 8-storey block of flats and a large restaurant. The second part of the development, between Kensington Palace-gardens and Palace-avenue, would contain the 14-storey hotel, with more shops underneath.

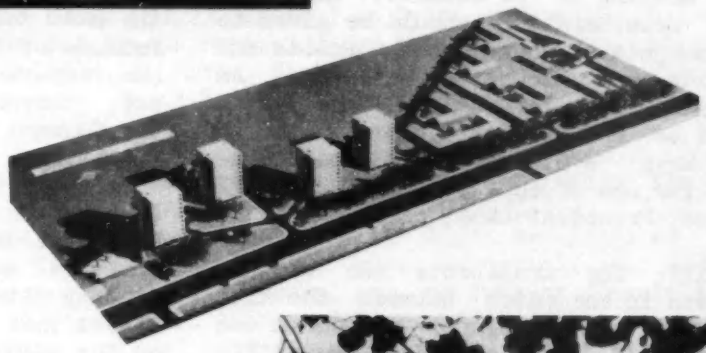
TANGANYIKA: Tenders are invited for the supply of paints, distempers and varnishes for the period October 1 1959 to September 30 1960. Consumption over the last 12 months was 224,000lb. of distemper and 16,225 gallons of paint. Tenders, marked 'Tender for Paint', should be addressed to the Secretary, Central Tender Board, PO Box 477, Dar-es-Salaam by August 31. (Ref. ESB/17439/59. Tel. CHAncery 4411 Ext. 738 or 771).

THE WEEK IN PICTURES

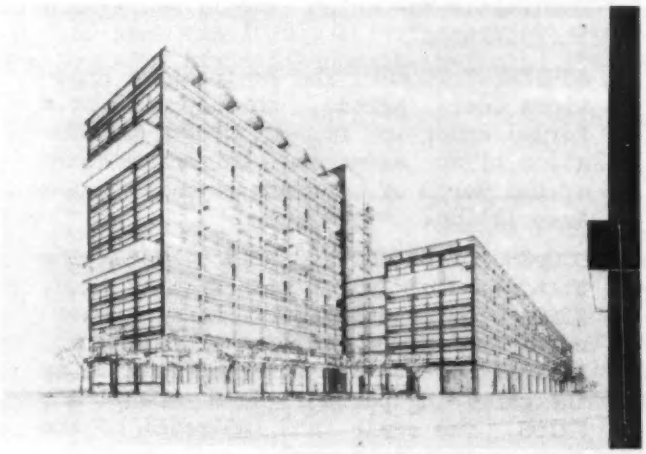


TO LEFT IS WOOLWORTH HOUSE, MARYLEBONE ROAD, JUST COMPLETED BY MYTON, LTD. ARCHITECTS: R. SEIFERT & PTNRS, WITH H. WINBOURNE.

BELOW IS A MODEL OF HOUSING PROPOSED BY LCC AT SHOOTERS HILL ROAD, GREENWICH. 272 DWELLINGS IN ALL. ARCHITECT TO THE COUNCIL: HUBERT BENNETT.



BELOW IS A PERSPECTIVE OF A SCHEME FOR MR. A. LEE ON A 72,000 SQ. FT. SITE AT THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE THREE OFFICE BLOCKS ARE PROPOSED. ARCHITECT: ERNO GOLDFINGER.



RIGHT: CASTROL HOUSE, MARYLEBONE-ROAD. FOR THE WAKEFIELD CASTROL GROUP. ARCHITECTS: GOLLINS, MELVIN, WARD & PTNRS. WITH SIR HUGH CASSON & N. CONDER.

EXPORT OPPORTUNITY: The UK Trade Commissioner, Edmonton, reports in connection with a hospital to be built at Calgary, that the Public Works Dept., Edmonton, would like to receive information from UK manufacturers or their agents on any materials entering into the construction of a hospital building - steel windows, flooring, partitioning, lockers, tiles, sanitaryware, etc. Manufacturers should send their literature to Mr. H.A. Henderson, Chief Government Architect, Department of Public Works, Public Works Building, Edmonton, Canada (BoT reference ESB/12241/59).

LOCKS ON NEW BUILDINGS: Captain H. P. Gregory, Assistant Commissioner of the City of London Police, told members of the LMBA, at a luncheon preceeding the July meeting of the Council, that special consideration should be given to the subject of locks, both inside and outside new blocks of buildings. An ordinary four-lever lock, he said, could be opened with 9 simple home-made keys; a 5-lever lock would involve the use of some 500 keys. Mr. K.J. Pearce, President LMBA, presided.

CRICKET: The architects won by six wickets in the match between the RIBA and RICS teams, played at Cheam on July 22. P. Johnson (RIBA) scored 129 not out.

MANCHESTER STATION REBUILDING: The first major railway terminus to be fully reconstructed since the war, Manchester, London Road, is to have its 100-year-old frontage demolished and replaced by a fine modern entrance with a 9-storey office block, spacious cafeteria and bars, shops and kiosks. Demolition work will begin at the end of August and the rebuilding is expected to take three years. Regional Architect, W.R. Headley, ARIBA. The work will be carried out under the direction of the Chief Civil Engineer, London Midland Region.

SHOPFITTERS' ELECTIONS: Mr. A. P. Gupwell and Mr. C. H. Drake have been elected President and Vice-President respectively of the National Association of Shopfitters.

LCC AND BRICK SUPPLIES: At the Council meeting held on July 14, Lady Pepler asked the Chairmen of the Housing and Supplies Committees whether they agreed that there was increased competition for materials as a result of recent building expansion throughout the country, and were they satisfied that the supply of bricks needed by the Council for its housing activities would be adequate in the months ahead.

Replying for both committees Mr. W.G. Fiske said that they were reasonably satisfied that there would be no general hold-up, though there might be occasional difficulties. The Council's requirements for common bricks for the 1959 programme had been notified to the brick manufacturers and registered by them. Similarly, requirements for facing bricks for schemes due to begin in the next six months, were registered. Because of the help which this gave manufacturers in programming their output, they had been co-operative with the Council in overcoming periodic difficulties.

In reply to a further question put by Lady Pepler concerning other materials, Mr. Fiske said that the most serious shortage was expected in the better quality clinker and clinker blocks. He stated that major contractors working on the Council's housing schemes had regular annual arrangements with the manufacturers which should safeguard the position.

AGREEMENT TO END: The Restrictive Practices Court agreed, on July 16, to a formal order in respect of the termination of an agreement between members of the North of England Building Brick Association.

PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Following the death on July 3 of William Lane, FIAS, the practice of W. Lane & Partners, quantity surveyors, of 6 Adam-st. Adelphi, WC2, will be carried on by the surviving partner, R. H. Bunting, FRICS. The style and address of the firm remains unchanged.

Gelder & Kitchen, chartered architects and surveyors, of Hull, have opened a London office at 9, Southampton-pl., WC1, which will be under the direction of Kenneth Barnard, ARIBA.

CONTRACTS PLACED

Brierley Hill. Fixed price tenders for 128 houses at Market-st. housing site for UDC. Ccl's. A and Housing Director: John R. Moore (A). *Buildings and Equipment (Sedgeley) Ltd., 55, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton. £154,038.

Coseley. 32 flats at Ettingshall-rd. housing site for UDC. *Buildings and Equipment Ltd., Wolverhampton.

Darlington. Crematorium at West Cemetery for TC. Boro' A: E. A. Tornbohm (A), Central-bldgs., Darlington. *W. Sanders Hutton Ltd., 43 Coniscliffe-rd., Darlington. £36,000.

Deptford. 12 flats and 4 garages on Wickham-rd./Ashby-rd. site for MBC. *T. R. Roberts (Builders) Ltd., 2, Devonshire-road, Forest Hill, S.E.23. £28,360.

Derby. New twin operating theatre at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary for Sheffield Regional Hospital Bd. A to Bd: E. F. Wilson (A), Fulwood-house, Old Fulwood-road, Sheffield, 10. *J. H. Fryer Ltd., Derby. £89,163.

Enfield. Additional nurses' accommodation at Chase Farm Hospital for North West Regional Hospital Bd. Regional A: W.G. Plant (F), 40 Eastbourne-terr., W2. *Allen Fairhead & Sons Ltd. £21,189.

Hartlepool. Four-storey office block for Richardsons Westgarth (Hartlepool) Ltd. adjoining company's existing head office at Princes-st. A: L. J. Couves & Ptnrs (F). *Holland & Hannen and Cubitts (Scotland) Ltd. £100,000.

Ipswich. Three-storey office block (30,000 sq.ft.) on Sedan-st/New Cardinal-st./Quadding-st./Princes-st. site for Fisons Pension Trust Limited (for occupation by Fisons Ltd., South Eastern Sales). A: Johns, Slater & Haward (F/A), 32, Foundation-st., Ipswich. Constg. engrs: Felix Samuely & Ptnrs., London. QS: Caston & Porritt, Ipswich. *Walter Lawrence & Sons Ltd., Sun-street, Finsbury-sq., EC2.

Liverpool. Works for City C: Four dwellings and six shops at Hillside-avenue, Woodfall Heath Estate; 1/4 dwellings and seven shops at Lee Park-avenue, Lee Park Estate; and 51 dwellings on site of St. Martin's Market. ‡R.J. Barton & Sons Ltd. Altcar-road, Formby. £25,664; £61,888; and £89,019. -- Eight dwellings at Mirfield-st. ‡F.C. Bloomfield & Co. Ltd., 71, Almonds Green, Liverpool, 12. £17,391

Liverpool. 88 dwellings, 6 garages and site works, etc. on Park-st./Beaufort-st/Mornington-st./Yates-st. site for City C. ‡Direct Labour. £161,556.

Middlesex. Eight detached farm workers' cottages on Green Belt farms at Enfield and Potters Bar for CC. ‡H. Brewster and Sons Ltd. £21,090.

London (Air Ministry). New building works contracts to the value of £500 or over for week ended July 24:- Khormaksar, Aden: The Consolidated Contractors Co., PO Box 307, Aden; Lakenheath, Suffolk: Walter Lawrence & Son Ltd., Ventnor-house, London-street, Swaffham, Norfolk.

London (MoW). Building works contracts placed for week ended July 18:- Brecknockshire: New Crown Building, Brecon, W. & A. Davies Ltd., Abersychan, Pontypool; Cambridgeshire: Inland Revenue Offices, Ely, S.S. Ambrose & Son, Cambridgeshire, Ely: Warwickshire: Bedford-st., Leamington Spa, postal garage and workshop Bosworth & Wakeford Ltd., Lawford-road, Rugby.

London (War Dept.): Building works contracts placed for week ended July 10: - East Africa (Kahawa), John Howard & Co. (Africa) Ltd., Salisbury, S. Rhodesia; Wiltshire (Durrington): Sims Bros., Durrington.

St. Marylebone. 16-storey block of 60 flats, 16 flats, 10 shops and 17 garages on Church-st. extension site for MBC. A: Bridgwater and Shepheard (F), 42, Bruton-pl. W1. QS: Crosher and James, 329, High Holborn, WC1. ‡Gee, Walker & Slater Limited. £254,359.

Salford: Four houses at Fenney-street and seven houses at Gerald-rd. for City C. *C. Topham & Sons Ltd. £8,262 and £12,596 (subject to MH & LG approval and in view of direct labour tender accepted in January).

Tynemouth. 50 flats on scattered sites for TC. Boro' E: D.M. O'Herlihy, 16 Northumberland-square, North Shields, *S. Hann, 10 Fairfield-dr., Tynemouth, £29,552 (24 flats). *Graham & Son, Forest Hill, Newcastle-on-Tyne. £33,100 (26 flats).

CONTRACTS OPEN

Further particulars may be obtained from the person named. Date given is latest for receipt of tenders.

Bournemouth CBC. Fixed price tenders for (a) shelter and children's convenience at recreation ground, Moore-Ave, Kinson, and (b) children's convenience at Cranleigh-road recreation ground, West Southbourne. Boro' A. Dep. £2.2s. September 9.

Bournemouth CBC. Fixed price tenders for Boscombe Development, phase two, comprising steel framed building for shelters, 36 chalets and an office of about 11,300 sq.ft. Boro' A. Dep. £2. 2s. September 9.

Gravesend BC. 28 flats. Boro' E. & S. Dep. £2. 2s. August 24.

Montgomeryshire CC. Extensions to County Offices, Welshpool. C. Dep. £2.2s. August 31.

Newmarket UDC. 5 houses and 1 flat at Houldsworth Valley estate. A: P.D.Lees (1), Council Offices, Severals-house, Dep. £2. 2s. September 4.

Northfleet UDC. (a) External painting of 120 houses. (b) New garages and extensions to workshops at Council's Brookvale depot. (c) Four flats and conversion of two houses into flats at Burch-rd. E. & S. (a) August 27; (b) and (c) September 15.

Romford BC. Demolition of 119 dwellings, together with two factories, etc. at Waterloo-rd. development area (three contracts) Boro' E. Dep. £2.2s. Aug.10.

South Shields. Bridge, road and sewer works at Keppel-street. A: L.G.Mouchel & Ptnrs., 24 Claremont-pl., Newcastle-on-Tyne. Dep. £5. 5s. September 16.

Worcester City C. New girls' grammar sch. at Spetchley-rd. A: Musman & Cousens (F/A), 12, Upper Berkeley-st., Portman-square, W.1. August 18.

ALTERATIONS IN MATERIALS PRICES

Noted since July 31, 1959

Bricks: 2⅝in. machine-made sandfaced red facings, £16. 16s. 6d. per 1,000 (+ 10s.); 2⅝in. machine-made multi-red facings, £17.1s.6d. per 1,000 (+ 10s.)
Copper Tube, 26½d. per lb. (+ ⅝d.).
Brass Tube, 21⅛d. per lb. (+ ½d.).

APPOINTMENTS OPEN

Further information may be obtained from the person named. The date given is the latest date for receipt of applications.

Architectural Assts. Intermediate standard. F. Potter, FRIBA, 3 Vicarage-rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15.

Barnsley CBC. Building Manager. JNC Scale C. TC. August 31.

Builder's Estimating Surveyor. Mr. A.P. Cottrell, Henry Boot & Sons (Southern) Ltd., 10, The Boltons, London, S.W.10.

Gen. Foremen and Section Foremen, for overseas. Personnel Manager, Taylor Woodrow, Western-house, Western-ave., London, W.5.

Herefordshire CC. Sen. asst. architect. APT IV. County A. August 17.

(a) Jun. Takers-off. (b) Workers-up. G.F.K. White & Hayton, 38/39 Parliament-street, S.W.1.

Sen. Estimator. Chief Estimator, Ford & Walton Ltd., Walton-hse., Warton-rd., London, E.15.

Sen. Taker-off. Dearle & Henderson, 75 Victoria-street, S.W.1.

Southampton CBC. (a) Asst. architect. Special grade. (b) Asst. planning officer. Special grade. (c) Planning asst. APT II. (d) Sen. QS. Special grade. Boro' A. August 24.

S-E Metropolitan Reg. Hospital Bd. Architect. Secretary to Board, 40, Eastbourne-terrace, W.2. August 31.

Tottenham BC. Clerk of works (unestab.) APT II. Boro' E. August 19.

Tunbridge Wells BC. Arch. asst. APT II. Boro' S. August 10.

Wednesfield UDC. Chief asst. eng. APT special grade. E. & S.

Workers-up. S.A. Paine & Ptnrs., 2 New-Court, W.C.2.

APPOINTMENT: Mr. E. Seymour-Semper has been elected President of the Institute of Welding for 1959/1960.

DIAMOND JUBILEE: Horace W. Cullum & Co. Ltd. acoustical engineers and contractors, The Acoustic Centre, N6, celebrate their sixtieth jubilee this year.

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